

**In the Claims**

Please amend claim 2 as set forth below. Upon entry of the present amendments, the claims will stand as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting altered expression of growth differentiation factor-5 (GDF-5) in a subject in need thereof, comprising contacting a GDF-5 specific antibody[[,]] that specifically binds a GDF-5 polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:13, or an antigen binding fragment of said GDF-5 specific antibody, with a specimen of the subject suspected of having altered expression of the GDF-5 polypeptide, and detecting binding of the antibody or the antigen binding fragment of the antibody, wherein an increased or decreased level of binding to the specimen as compared to binding to ~~comparable specimens obtained from~~ of normal subjects is indicative of altered expression of the GDF-5 polypeptide in the subject, wherein the specimen of the subject suspected of having altered expression of the GDF-5 polypeptide and the specimens of normal subjects are obtained from the same type of tissue.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the specimen comprises uterine neoplasm tissue or endometriosis tissue.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the specimen comprises skeletal tissue.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the detecting is *in vivo*.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the detection is *in vitro*.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody comprises a detectable label.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the detectable label is a radioisotope, a fluorescent compound, a bioluminescent compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an enzyme, a colloidal metal, a phosphorescent compound, or a paramagnetic isotope.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody comprises a hapten coupled thereto.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the hapten is biotin, dinitrophenyl, puridoxal, or fluorescein.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the antigen binding fragment of the GDF-5 specific antibody is an Fab fragment or an F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment of the antibody is bound to a solid phase carrier.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the solid phase carrier comprises glass, polystyrene, polypropylene, polyethylene, dextran, nylon, amylase, natural cellulose, modified cellulose, polyacrylamide, agarose or magnetite.